

March 1, 2022

Hello Committee Members and Madam Chairwoman:

My name is Coley Brown. I live in District 36 where I represent 1,327 supporters as their Convention of States Captain. I want a floor debate on HJ0006 to discuss having Maryland participate in a National Convention of States. This will allow Maryland a voice on: fiscal responsibility – federal overreach – and term limits. These are popular topics with Maryland voters. They are popular nationally where 17 states have already agreed to participate in a Convention of the States to discuss these 3 topics and these 3 topics only.

**To clarify why:**

- The Convention of States is not a partisan movement.
- This is not the first Convention of States or without precedent. Our beautiful Bill of Rights came from the first Convention.
- The Convention is not chartered to pass any Constitutional amendments.
- The Convention only has the authority to discuss these topics. If the Convention agrees to any recommendations, these recommendations go back to each respective state legislature, YOU, to CONSIDER approving.
- For a Constitutional amendment to be accepted,  $\frac{3}{4}$ 's of the 50 state legislatures need to agree to the amendment.
- If only **part** of an individual state's legislature disagrees, then that state will not approve the Convention's recommendations.
- Opposition from only  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the legislatures in  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the 50 states will stop an amendment from being adopted.
- **Most importantly**, if Maryland does not attend the Convention, your voter's voices and your legislative opinions will not be heard.

I implore you not to **CENSURE** this floor debate. 28,000 of your voters ask you move HJ0006 out of committee and are watching your results. Let this bill come to the floor to debate its merits and its flaws.

Thank you

Tentative Order of Testimony - attached.

1. Justin Ready
2. Mike Rilee
3. Leslie Jenkins
4. Seth Lipko
5. Robert Fish
6. Cody White
7. Jennifer Deems-Brown
8. Coley Brown
9. Robert Betz
10. Mary Jane Perraut
11. Rick Bibbee
12. Nichole Weakley
13. Jim McQueen
14. Carrie Wolford
15. Gayle McCowin
16. Elliott Weakley
17. Deirdre Peterson
18. William Zwart
19. Steve Patten